

United States District Court

SOUTHERN

DISTRICT OF

TEXAS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

VS.

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

GARZA-Cantu, Rene YOB: 1966, MEX

United States District Court
Southern District of Texas
FILED

CASE NUMBER: M-17-1370-M

AUG 04 2017

Clerk of Court

I, the undersigned complainant being duly sworn state the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. On or about August 3, 2017 in Starr county, in the Southern District of Texas defendant(s) did,

Knowingly and Intentionally possess with the Intent to Distribute approximately 31.4 kilograms of Cocaine, a Schedule II Controlled Substance.

Knowingly and Intentionally conspire to possess with the Intent to Distribute approximately 31.4 kilograms of Cocaine, a Schedule II Controlled Substance.

in violation of Title 21 United States Code, Section(s) 846, 841 (a) (1)

I further state that I am a(n) DEA Special Agent and that this complaint is based on the following facts: See Attachment "A".

Continued on the attached sheet and made a part of hereof: ☒ Yes ☐ No

OK to file TET

Signature of Complainant
Alfonso Perez Jr., Special Agent

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence,

August 4, 2017

Date

At

McAllen, Texas

City and State

Dorina Ramos, U.S. Magistrate Judge

Name & Title of Judicial Officer

Dorina Ramos
Signature of Judicial Officer

Attachment A

On August 3, 2017, at approximately 9:20 a.m., Border Patrol agents from the Rio Grande City, Texas Station were conducting line watch duties near the Starr/Hidalgo County line when they observed a white in color Ford Ranger driving near the riverbanks in the Starr Company Farms property. This area is commonly used by smugglers, due to its proximity to the Rio Grande River, to cross illegal immigrant and or narcotics into the United States. U.S. Border Patrol agents observed the truck stop near the river banks and then minutes later depart and then drive north through the property.

U.S. Border Patrol agents responded to the area and began to follow the truck to Highway 83 and then eastbound towards Alto Bonito, Texas. The truck drove a short distance and came to a stop at the Border Town Grocery Store. The driver of the truck, later identified as Rene GARZA-Cantu, hereinafter referred to as GARZA-Cantu, exited the vehicle, walked back towards the bed area and stood next to his truck. A U.S. Border Patrol agent, who was following GARZA-Cantu, parked his unit next to GARZA-Cantu and engaged him in a consensual conversation. During the conversation GARZA-Cantu admitted that he had been near the river banks, because of his work. When the U.S. Border Patrol agent requested consent to search GARZA-Cantu's truck for illegal immigrants or narcotics, GARZA-Cantu consented and told the agent that he did not have anything. While conducting a search of the interior of the truck, the U.S. Border Patrol agent discovered two sacks, which contained 25 bundles of suspected narcotics. Once at the station the bundles, weighing approximately 31.4 kilograms tested positive for the properties and characteristics of cocaine.

At approximately 1:11 p.m. DEA agents interviewed GARZA-Cantu at the Rio Grande City Border Patrol Station. Under Miranda advisement and waiver, GARZA-Cantu told agents that he had picked up the narcotics near the river banks and was transporting them to Military Highway, where he would discard them. When agents questioned GARZA-Cantu's version of the events, he told agents that he would take responsibility for what he did and made no further statements.